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SEPTEMBER 2025

# *Wings of the Spirit*

December 2025

Manassas Presbyterian Church, 8201 Ashton Avenue, Manassas VA 20109  
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**WHAT  
CAN'T  
WAIT**



Come experience the  
warmth of the Advent  
season with us at  
Manassas Presbyterian  
Church.



**Adult Advent Study**

Sundays  
(11/30 - 12/21)  
and Tuesdays  
(12/2 - 12/23)

**Family Movie Night**

December 7  
5 PM

**MPC @ the Movies**

Wednesdays  
2 PM  
December 3,  
10 and 17

**PW Christmas Tea**

December 4  
7 PM



**Advent Festival  
Gloria in Excelsis**

December 14  
3 PM



**Christmas Caroling**

December 21  
2 PM



**Worship, Candlelight  
and Communion**

Christmas Eve  
6PM



**ADVENT 2025**

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Happy Advent, MPC!

As our congregation sits with the theme of “What Can’t Wait” this year, I can’t help but wonder about two things:

Firstly, how can we pause and balance the urgency of Advent with the stillness that so many crave during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season?

I am fondly reminded of an evening at last month’s confirmation retreat, when we stepped outside from our cabin in the dark and just looked up at the night sky. And as our eyes adjusted, all the lights from the moon, the stars, the planets, continued to get brighter and brighter. And although the entire universe was moving around us we could not feel it. The only movement we could see was from the clouds that drifted by with the breeze. We felt totally still. As we gazed, we realized the magnificence of creation and its Creator. In some ways, our smallness relative to God’s vastness is what allows us to be still, even in the movement and the chaos. Moments like those we can hold onto, particularly moments with loved ones that offer comfort and joy, because they offer a snapshot of stillness in the motion. With all the happenings at MPC this month, I invite you to take some mental snapshots of those moments - the laughter during the Muppets Movie, the music during the Advent Festival, the decorations and lighting of the candles on Sunday mornings, the delicious food and the joyful crafts we partake in together at the tea and Christmas parties. As we actively wait for the coming of Christmas, take time to be still.

Secondly, who does the waiting?

This week I saw a quote attributed to Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, which states, “The reality of Advent isn’t that we are waiting for the birth of the Christ Child. The Christ Child is here and is waiting for us to come. He is crying out to us from the border. He is calling to us from the voices of the poor. He is shouting out to us from prison. He is waiting for us to live out our faith. He is waiting for us to seek justice. He is waiting for us to pursue peace. Let us go, for He is waiting.”

Well, what are we waiting for? Let us go out into the world acting out our hope of the world that is and is to come, acting out our peace in places of conflict, acting out our joy and jubilation even in the darkest corners, and acting out our love for one another, friend and stranger alike.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Rebekah Greniven

We believe God calls us to reflect Christ's love and mercy by

- **WORSHIPING** as a community of diverse ages, backgrounds and cultures;
- **ENGAGING** the whole congregation in fellowship, learning, service, and outreach to the wider community;
- **SERVING** by caring for each other and reaching out to the world God loves, seeking to understand and respond to needs;
- **GROWING** as individuals, families, and community as we continue to discover who we are in Jesus Christ; and trying to follow his example.



## A Wish from your Session



During this special season, our wish is for each of you to experience the love of Christ. Our prayer is that through the fellowship and service of our congregation we can bring His Message of *Joy to the World*. And our earnest prayer for the new year is for *Peace on Earth*.

## Finance Update

Thank you for your generosity in responding to our annual stewardship effort. Session was able to approve a balanced MPC budget for 2026 without having to reduce any programs.



Praise be to God!





# Untrim-a-Tree Project

**Now Through Wednesday, December 10**

**Share the joy this Christmas!**  
**Help support kids and seniors this Advent.**  
**Contact Ruth Williams or sign up through**  
**the SignUpGenius link in the weekly e-blast.**





## Worship & Music Notes

Deborah Panell

### Northern Virginia Handbell Festival

MPC's Joyous Ringers joined 10 other area bell choirs for a weekend of ringing in November.



### Church Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers to decorate the sanctuary during worship, please use this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ADA623A5FFC16-54102886-worship#/>



# *Advent Festival*

## *Gloria In Excelsis*



*Sunday, December 14, 2025*  
*3:00 p.m.*

**Manassas Presbyterian Church Jerusalem Choir**  
**Shauna Kreidler and Sara Woodward, soloists**  
**String Quartet, Trumpet, Oboe and Organ**

**Ave Marie and Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring**  
**Flute and Piano transcriptions**

**Joyous Ringers Handbell Choir**

***Family friendly, community event***

***Angel Crafts for all ages***

***Angel Display and Refreshments***

***Free-will offering***

***RSVP on hallway bulletin board***

***Share the date***



## PORTUGAL GOODWILL CONCERT TOUR

*OCTOBER, 2025*

**University of Coimbra Chapel**



**Chapel of the Centro Parroquial Sao Vicente Do Paulo**



**Porto Cathedral**





# RISE AGAINST HUNGER FOOD PACKING



## FREE WILL OFFERING Chimes for Children in Portugal



CHAPEL OF THE CENTRO PARROQUIAL SAO VINCENTE DO PAULO (SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH CENTER), 13 OCTOBER 2025

Please support MPC's Portugal travelers gift of Melody Bells (K - 2) and Handchimes (3rd - 8th) to the children and teachers at St. Vincent of Paul Parish School in Lisbon! Your **contributions will support the purchase of music and resources** for the music program.

Give **ONLINE** and select **BELLS**

**OR**

**Checks** payable: MPC

**Memo:** Portugal Chimes

This **outreach will be an ongoing relationship** and **funds are needed** to insure additional **teacher resources, music and maintenance** as their programs develop.

**MPC Children and Youth Choirs will be ambassadors** to the school. The director of St. Vincent Parish School has promised that they will in turn send us video once their children have learned to play. **Thank you** for your support of this international outreach!





# Confirmation Fun



# Fall Festival





# Early Learning Center

## Susan Ferguson

November was another great month at the ELC! There are so many ways the students could enjoy the fall season, but topping the list was crafting with leaves! We also enjoyed our very first ELC Thanksgiving Day Balloon Parade. Special thanks to the PTO who sponsored "Pie Day" at our November staff meeting, and we look forward to the ELC Board providing for the annual staff Christmas lunch in December!



December is always a favorite month for our preschoolers and teachers alike. Young children bring a special joy to the season with their excitement! The halls will be decorated with ornaments and stockings hung with care.

We will have our annual Christmas Program where families are invited to watch their children sing a number of holiday songs. Our lunch bunch group will have special activities as we seek to help families who want extra time to get ready for the holidays. And then we get a break so we can come back in January ready to talk (hopefully) about snow!



From all of us at ELC, we wish everyone  
a Merry Christmas filled with peace,  
love and joy!

## Presbyterian Women (PW)

Bible study is the glue that holds Presbyterian Women together and the women of MPC are no exception. Our three Circles gather “to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study,” which is part of the Purpose of Presbyterian Women across the world. This year they are studying the 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter with Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker. Come to a Circle anytime to see what it’s all about.

For more information contact one of the Circle representatives: Martha Circle - Christy Tayler & Pam Shriver (Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10AM); Alpha-Agape Circle - Lois Franco & Julie Mahoney (Meets the third Tuesday of each month at noon); or Covenant Renewal Circle - Rebecca Shell (Meets through Zoom, the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7PM).

Mission is also an important part of Presbyterian Women. In addition to supporting the Fellowship of the Least Coin, the Circles supported 30 seniors in the Untrim-a-Tree program. In 2026 the Circles expect to support the women living at the SERVE shelter by collecting feminine care products and other toiletries as part of the Women Helping Women program.

### And, THE COOK-OFF WINNERS ARE:

**1<sup>st</sup> PLACE:** Renee Chagnon

**2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE:** Larry Panell

**3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE:** Gina Ball



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Barbara Ferguson
4	Amy Caradine
6	Ryan Zigahmber
6	Christopher Burroughs
9	Paul Patterson
10	Ken Adams
10	Orest Nazarchuk
12	Nancy MacKenzie
12	Maria Weaverber
13	Mary White
13	Hayden Marsh
13	Ethan Marsh
13	Emily Rosario
17	Linda Ruhl
17	Erin Thompson
18	Jamie Fairgrieve
21	Hannah Markowitz
22	Emily Yelanjian
23	Carol Sue Honey
23	Lauren Saylor
25	Carolyn Ulrich
27	Peter Calvanese
28	Carolyn Grandjean
29	Christy Tayler
31	Bob Massie



## Weekend Food for Kids (WFFK) Mission Program Update

THANK YOU to everyone who made the three WFFK packings in September and November for the 2025-2026 school year go so smoothly!

You packed 1,920 gallon bags of nonperishable food items for 160 students at three elementary schools. You also packed over 1,800 snack bags of cheddar fish to help support the teachers at these schools. Great



Job!! There is more work to do in 2026. Here are the remaining Setup and Packing dates for the 2025-2026 School Year:

### Setup (Saturday) and Packing (Sunday) Dates

Setup: January 3;	Packing: January 4	(4 weeks)
Setup: January 31;	Packing: February 1	(4 weeks)
Setup: February 28;	Packing: March 1	(4 weeks)
Setup: March 21;	Packing: March 22	(4 weeks)
Setup: May 2;	Packing: May 3	(4 weeks)
Setup: May 30;	Packing: May 31	(2 weeks)

Other ways the congregation can support this program are by bringing boxes of Rice Krispie Bars (60 or 40 bars) and Fruit Gummies (40 or 90 packages) and placing them in the big yellow bin in the Narthex or you can give financially, noting "WFFK-Food" on your donation, either written or electronic.

We continue to be amazed by your support for this program.

Thank you for sharing Christ's love!

### *Mission Outreach*

#### **Food Collection Dates**

December 7th and 21st

#### **Serving Neighbors**

with Gainesville UMC at MPC  
Tuesdays at 3:00pm

Neighbor Picnic Dec. 30th

## December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>7</b> <b>8:45am Adult Advent Class - Sunday</b> <b>10:00am Worship</b> <i>11:00am Officer Training</i> <i>11:15am Food Bank Donation Collection</i> 11:30am Family Ministries and Choir Programs for Children/Youth with Lunch <b>5:00pm Family Movie Night</b> 6:30pm Adult Advent Class via Zoom	<b>8</b> 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 7:00pm Family Ministry Team ZOOM	<b>9</b> <b>2:00pm Adult Advent Class</b> 3:00pm Serving Friends 7:00pm Mission Team Meeting via Zoom	<b>10</b> 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 12:30pm ELC Reserved Event <b>2:00pm MPC at the Movies</b> 5:00pm Jerusalem Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team 4:00pm Personnel Team Ministry Meeting	<b>12</b> Church Office Closed	<b>13</b> Advent Festival - Setup 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>14</b> <b>8:45am Adult Advent Class - Sunday</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Family Ministries Program 12:00pm Youth and Adult Choir Rehearsal for Advent Festival <b>3:00pm Advent Festival</b> 6:30pm Adult Advent Class via Zoom	<b>15</b> 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	<b>16</b> 12:00pm Martha & Alpha Agape Joint Meeting <b>2:00pm Adult Advent Class</b> 3:00pm Serving Friends <b>6:00pm Officer Meeting &amp; Examination</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes <b>2:00pm MPC at the Movies</b> 5:00pm Jerusalem Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team <i>1:00pm Staff Meeting</i>	<b>19</b> Church Office Closed	<b>20</b> 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>21</b> <b>8:45am Adult Advent Class - Sunday</b> 10:00am Worship <i>11:15am Food Bank Donation Collection</i> 11:30am Family Ministries Christmas Event 2:00pm Family Ministries Caroling 6:30pm Adult Advent Class via Zoom	<b>22</b> Items Due for Annual Report	<b>23</b> <b>2:00pm Adult Advent Class</b> 3:00pm Serving Friends	<b>24</b> <b>Special Offering - Christmas Joy</b> Church Office Closed <b>6:00pm Worship with Communion</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10:00am Worship & Breakfast Potluck - Setup
<b>28</b> <b>10:00am Worship &amp; Breakfast Potluck</b>	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed <b>3:00pm Neighbor Picnic &amp; Serving Friends</b>	<b>31</b> Church Office Closed - Holiday			